



# Volunteer Lake Assessment Program Individual Lake Reports

## FOREST LAKE, WHITEFIELD, NH

### MORPHOMETRIC DATA

|                       |       |                           |           |                                   |      |
|-----------------------|-------|---------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|------|
| Watershed Area (Ac.): | 1,250 | Max. Depth (m):           | 6.4       | Flushing Rate (yr <sup>-1</sup> ) | 1    |
| Surface Area (Ac.):   | 192   | Mean Depth (m):           | 2.8       | P Retention Coef:                 | 0.75 |
| Shore Length (m):     | 3,500 | Volume (m <sup>3</sup> ): | 2,204,000 | Elevation (ft):                   | 1106 |

### TROPHIC CLASSIFICATION

| Year | Trophic class |
|------|---------------|
| 1990 | MESOTROPHIC   |
| 2005 | MESOTROPHIC   |

### KNOWN EXOTIC SPECIES

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|--|
|  |
|  |
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The Waterbody Report Card tables are generated from the DRAFT 2014 305(b) report on the status of N.H. waters, and are based on data collected from 2004-2013. Detailed waterbody assessment and report card information can be found at [www.des.nh.gov/organizations/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/index.htm](http://www.des.nh.gov/organizations/divisions/water/wmb/swqa/index.htm)

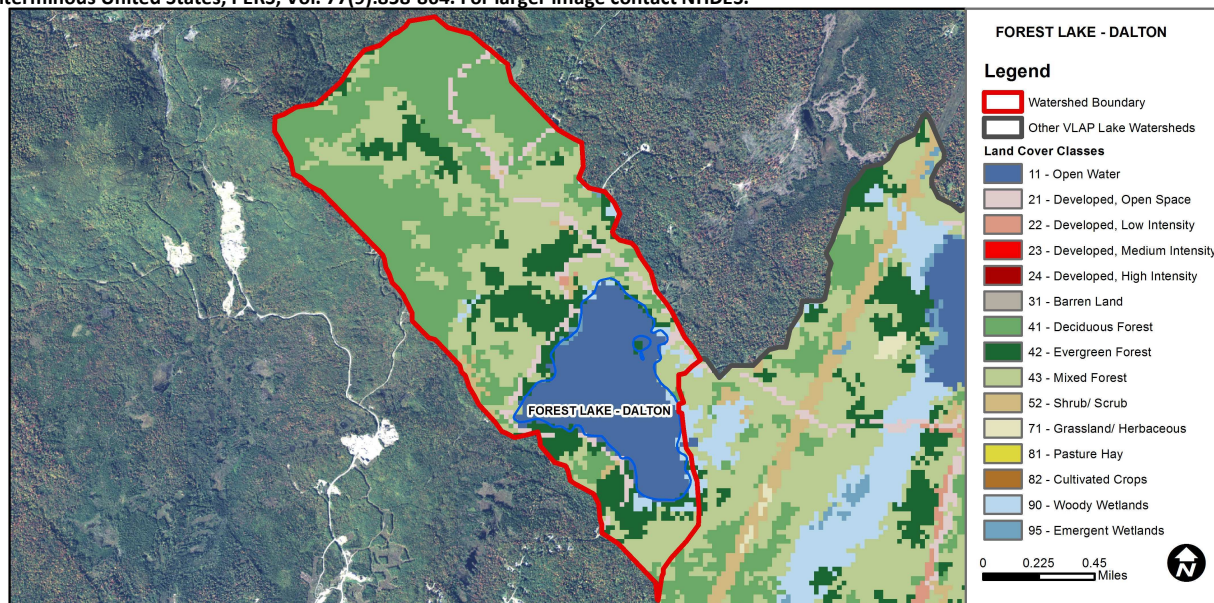
| Designated Use             | Parameter               | Category     | Comments  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---|
| Aquatic Life               | Phosphorus (Total)      | Good         | The calculated median is from 5 or more samples and is < indicator and > 1/2 indicator and the chlorophyll a indicator is okay. |
|                            | pH                      | Slightly Bad | >10% of samples exceed criteria by a small margin (minimum of 2 exceedances).   |
|                            | Oxygen, Dissolved       | Good         | There are at least 10 samples with one, but < 10% of samples, exceeding criteria.   |
|                            | Dissolved oxygen satura | Good         | There are at least 10 samples with one, but < 10% of samples, exceeding criteria.   |
|                            | Chlorophyll-a           | Good         | The calculated median is from 5 or more samples and is < indicator and > 1/2 indicator.   |
| Primary Contact Recreation | Escherichia coli        | Good         | There are geometric means and all geometric means are < geometric mean criteria; and there has been a single sample exceedance. |
|                            | Chlorophyll-a           | Very Good    | There are a total of at least 10 samples with 0 exceedances of indicator.   |

### BEACH PRIMARY CONTACT ASSESSMENT STATUS

|                                      |                  |           |   |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|---|
| FOREST LAKE - FOREST LAKE STATE PARK | Escherichia coli | Very Good | Where there are no geometric means, all bacteria samples are < 75% of the geometric mean. Where there are geometric means all single bacteria samples are < the SSMC and all geometric means are < geometric mean criteria. |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-----------|---|

### WATERSHED LAND USE SUMMARY

Fry, J., Xian, G., Jin, S., Dewitz, J., Homer, C., Yang, L., Barnes, C., Herold, N., and Wickham, J., 2011. Completion of the 2006 National Land Cover Database for the Conterminous United States, PERS, Vol. 77(9):858-864. For larger image contact NHDES.



| Land Cover Category        | % Cover | Land Cover Category | % Cover | Land Cover Category  | % Cover |
|----------------------------|---------|---------------------|---------|----------------------|---------|
| Open Water                 | 17.1    | Barren Land         | 0       | Grassland/Herbaceous | 0       |
| Developed-Open Space       | 3.91    | Deciduous Forest    | 34.75   | Pasture Hay          | 0       |
| Developed-Low Intensity    | 0.1     | Evergreen Forest    | 13.03   | Cultivated Crops     | 0       |
| Developed-Medium Intensity | 0       | Mixed Forest        | 26.84   | Woody Wetlands       | 1.6     |
| Developed-High Intensity   | 0       | Shrub-Scrub         | 0.94    | Emergent Wetlands    | 0.23    |



# VOLUNTEER LAKE ASSESSMENT PROGRAM INDIVIDUAL LAKE REPORTS

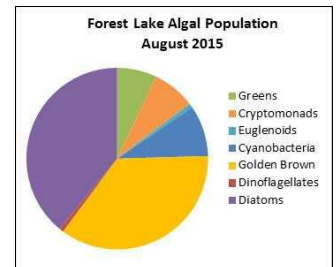
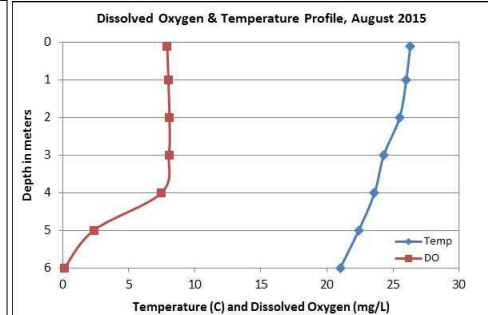
## FOREST LAKE, WHITEFIELD

### 2015 DATA SUMMARY

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:** Lake water quality was good in 2015 and indicative of Oligotrophic, or high quality waters, conditions. The improving chlorophyll and phosphorus trends are encouraging, however lake clarity or transparency has declined. This may be a result of stormwater runoff due to high volume storm events flushing unstable sediments and nutrients into the lake, as well as flushing wetland systems rich in organic acids that cause water to become highly colored and therefore less clear. Conduct Apparent Color analyses on deep spot samples to determine if water color has become darker over time. This can be analyzed free of charge at the DES Jody Connor Limnology Center. State Beach Brook continues to exhibit elevated phosphorus and turbidity which may in part be caused by beaver activity and high levels of organic content due to flooded upstream landscape. Keep up the great work!

#### OBSERVATIONS (Refer to Table 1 and Historical Deep Spot Data Graphics)

- **CHLOROPHYLL-A:** Chlorophyll levels were low in August and much less than the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) chlorophyll levels since 1989.
- **CONDUCTIVITY/CHLORIDE:** Deep spot and tributary conductivity levels were low and approximately equal to the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates stable epilimnetic (upper water layer) conductivity since 1989.
- **E. COLI:** Newt, Sundman and Wright Cottage E. coli levels were very low and much less than the state standard for public beaches (88 cts/100 mL) and surface waters (406 cts/100 mL).
- **TOTAL PHOSPHORUS:** Epilimnetic, hypolimnetic (lower water layer), North Inlet, and Outlet phosphorus levels were low. Epilimnetic phosphorus decreased slightly from 2014 and was less than the state median. Historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (improving) epilimnetic phosphorus since 1989. State Beach Brook phosphorus levels were elevated in August and the turbidity was also slightly elevated. This station has a history of elevated and fluctuating phosphorus levels.
- **TRANSPARENCY:** Transparency was good in August, improved (increased) from 2014 and was better than the state median. However, historical trend analysis indicates significantly decreasing (worsening) transparency since monitoring 1989.
- **TURBIDITY:** Epilimnetic, hypolimnetic, North Inlet and Outlet turbidities were low to average. State Beach Brook turbidity was slightly elevated likely due to low flow conditions.
- **pH:** Epilimnetic pH was invalidated due to a laboratory meter error. Historical trend analysis indicates highly variable epilimnetic pH since 1990. Hypolimnetic, North Inlet, Outlet and State Beach Brook pH levels were all within the desirable range 6.5-8.0 units.



| Station Name      | Table 1. 2015 Average Water Quality Data for FOREST LAKE |                 |                |                    |                 |             |      |              |
|-------------------|--|-----------------|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|------|--------------|
|                   | Alk.<br>mg/l   | Chlor-a<br>ug/l | Cond.<br>uS/cm | E. Coli<br>#/100ml | Total P<br>ug/l | Trans.<br>m |      | Turb.<br>ntu |
| Epilimnion        | 10.4   | 2.72            | 36.9           |                    | 6               | 4.10        | 4.35 | 0.97         |
| Hypolimnion       |  |                 | 36.5           |                    | 9               |             |      | 1.38         |
| Newt Cottage      |  |                 |                | 10                 |                 |             |      |              |
| North Inlet       |  |                 | 36.9           |                    | 6               |             |      | 0.76         |
| Outlet            |  |                 | 36.8           |                    | 7               |             |      | 0.73         |
| State Beach Brook |  |                 | 44.3           |                    | 34              |             |      | 3.46         |
| Sundman Cottage   |  |                 |                | 10                 |                 |             |      |              |
| Wright Cottage    |  |                 |                | 10                 |                 |             |      |              |

**NH Median Values:** Median values for specific parameters generated from historic lake monitoring data.

**Alkalinity:** 4.9 mg/L  
**Chlorophyll-a:** 4.58 mg/m<sup>3</sup>  
**Conductivity:** 40.0 uS/cm  
**Chloride:** 4 mg/L  
**Total Phosphorus:** 12 ug/L  
**Transparency:** 3.2 m  
**pH:** 6.6

**NH Water Quality Standards:** Numeric criteria for specific parameters. Results exceeding criteria are considered a water quality violation.

**Chloride:** > 230 mg/L (chronic)  
**E. coli:** > 88 cts/100 mL – public beach  
**E. coli:** > 406 cts/100 mL – surface waters  
**Turbidity:** > 10 NTU above natural level  
**pH:** between 6.5-8.0 (unless naturally occurring)

#### HISTORICAL WATER QUALITY TREND ANALYSIS

| Parameter       | Trend  | Explanation                                       | Parameter               | Trend     | Explanation                    |
|-----------------|--------|---|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|
| Conductivity    | Stable | Trend not significant; data show low variability. | Chlorophyll-a           | Improving | Data significantly decreasing. |
| pH (epilimnion) | Stable | Trend not significant; data highly variable.      | Transparency            | Worsening | Data significantly decreasing. |
|                 |        |   | Phosphorus (epilimnion) | Improving | Data significantly decreasing. |

